

REMARKS

Claims 57, 59-61, and 63 to 67 appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration.

Claim 57 has been amended to more specifically recite that the front face of the present invention is greatest at the sole and becomes progressively thinner from the sole section to the crown section. This is what the Applicants have claimed and request that this amendment be entered for purposes of appeal.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 57, 61, and 63-67, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beach et al. (USPN 6,623,378) in view of Galloway et al. (USPN 6,575,845 and Masahiko et al. (JP 2002-000772) and further in view of Molitor et al. (USPN 4,762,322.

As pertaining to claim 57, the inventive concept of the present invention is that the front face gradually decreases in thickness from the sole to the crown. As previously stated the thickness is greatest at the sole and progressively becomes thinner towards the crown. In his rejections, the Examiner has repeatedly stated that "Masahiko discloses a club head having a thickness which gradually decreases from the sole to the crown". This is entirely erroneous and is not supported by the Masahiko patent. Masahiko discloses a front face that gradually decreases in thickness, his front face does not decrease from the sole portion to the crown portion, but only from an intermediate part (T2) to an upper end part (T1). Masahiko is very specific in his Abstract that the front face is "kept constant substantially from the intermediate part T2 to a lower end part T3". There is no question, whatsoever, that there is no gradual tapering from the sole portion of Masahiko to the crown portion. The tapering of Masahiko starts at approximately the middle of the club head and only taper from the middle (T2) upwards. In their specification, the Applicants have submitted spin control test data for their innovative design concept.

Masahiko et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of Beach in view of Galloway and Molitor. There is no motivation to modify the references or any reasonable expectation

of success in their combination. Additionally, neither reference, alone or in combination, discloses the entire front face tapering, as now recited in 57 of the present invention.

Accordingly, independent claim 57 is believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above. Moreover, the remaining claims 61 and 63-67 depend from this claim add additional features. These claims are believed to be patentable for the totality of the claimed inventions therein and by virtue of their dependence from the independent claim. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 59 and 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beach et al. (USPN 6,623,378) in view of Galloway et al. (USPN 6,575,845, in view of Masahiko et al. (JP 2002-000772), in view of Molitor et al. (USPN 4,762,322, and further in view of Kosmatka (USPN 6,478,692).

As stated above, these claims are believed to be patentable for their totality therein and by virtue of their dependence from the independent claim 57 which is seen to be patentable by the Applicants. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn

Conclusion

Based on the remarks set forth above, Applicants believe that all of the rejections have been overcome and the claims of the subject application are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further concerns or believe that a discussion with the Applicants' agent would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the agent at the number below.

No fee is believed to be due for this submission, except for the \$500 for the Notice of Appeal which is attached. However, should any required fees be due, please charge them to Acushnet Company Deposit Account No. 502309.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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Attachments: Notice of Appeal